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Via Fax and Electronic Mail

June 29, 2012

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling
Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Subject: Letter in Support of Proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line; Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need; NYSPSC Case No. 10-T-0139

Dear Secretary Brilling:

I write in support of the Champlain Hudson Power Express ("CHPE") transmission line, which is proposed by Transmission Developers, Inc. and is presently before the New York State Public Service Commission ("NYSPSC") in an application for an Article VII Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Article VII Certificate").

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has long advocated for lower electricity rates so as to promote an affordable standard of living and economic development for Westchester residents and businesses. Westchester County and neighboring communities, including New York City, are challenged by increasing electricity prices, higher demand, insufficient transmission modalities and difficulty in siting new generating facilities, particularly renewable sources such as wind and hydropower. The Board of Legislators supports facilities that generate and transmit renewable energy in order to reduce the consumption of fossil-fuels and resulting emission of greenhouse gases.

The proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line would bring 1,000 megawatts (MW) of new electricity generated from renewable sources into the New York City metropolitan area, and the project would be entirely privately financed. The President and CEO of Transmission Developers, Inc., has publicly stated that hundreds of New York jobs would be generated over the course of the transmission line's construction. The CHPE project is estimated to produce \$650 million in annual energy savings for consumers.

In addition to ratepayer benefits, an economic forecasting analysis of the CHPE transmission line projects over two thousand indirect and induced jobs during the first ten years of full operation. The analysis forecasts an increased GDP of approximately \$600 million per year in this period, and greater overall electric service reliability to New York's transmission grid. Many of the direct and indirect jobs and economic activity induced by the CHPE project are projected to occur in the Capital/Lower Hudson Valley region.

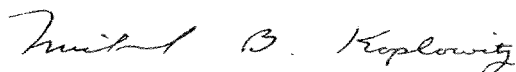
Numerous interested parties, including Westchester County, participated in an extensive review process for the CHPE transmission project to develop a proposal that would address potential project impacts to infrastructure and environmental resources. The proposed CHPE transmission line incorporates mitigation measures to limit environmental impacts to sensitive and important resources such as the Hudson River and Haverstraw Bay and also avoids interference with Westchester County facilities that are within and proximate to the river.

Several groups have referenced possible impacts of hydropower development upon environmental resources and lands in Canada that are either owned or occupied by indigenous peoples. I urge the Public Service Commission and other relevant approving entities, both in the United States and Canada, to carefully consider any such potential impacts in their evaluation of the CHPE project and associated facilities and to require all appropriate mitigation measures, to the extent authorized by law.

In light of the many economic and environmental benefits described above for the CHPE project, I hereby express my support for the development of the Champlain Hudson Power Express transmission line, as proposed in the Joint Proposal in NYSPSC case 10-T-0139. I urge the New York State Public Service Commission to approve the application for an Article VII Certificate for the proposed CHPE transmission line, described in the Joint Proposal in NYSPSC case 10-T-0139.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or comments at (914) 995-2848.

Very truly yours,



Michael B. Kaplowitz, J.D., CFP

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York State
Hon. Dean Skelos, Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker, New York State Assembly
Hon. George Maziarz, Vice President Pro Tempore and Chair, Energy and
Telecommunications Committee, New York State Senate
Hon. Kevin Cahill, Chair, Energy Committee, New York State Assembly
Hon. Members of Westchester Delegation in New York State Legislature
Hon. Robert Astorino, Westchester County Executive